

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Maxwell, Grady](#)
Cc: [Fleming, Sheila](#); [REDACTED]; [Filippini, Mark](#); [REDACTED]; [Kelly, Joyce](#); [Williamson, Ann](#)
Subject: FW: Indoor Air Quality Test Results for the 14th floor
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 5:15:20 PM
Attachments: [TCE Memo-OEA Limits.pdf](#)

Grady-

Being a member of the most vulnerable demographic, I am highly concerned about my ability to work in the current office environment. It looks like I am able to occupy a swing-space cubicle on the 11th floor (for a few months?) but that's not a lasting solution to this problem. The indoor air concentrations of TCE (and other chemicals that may contribute to cumulative effects) must be measured properly, according to methodology and necessary detection limits recommended by EPA itself. I am interested in whether or not my work environment is fit for occupation based on human health exposure scenarios, not what the LEED air quality standards are. The change in air quality is obvious as soon as the elevator door opens on the 14th floor. I know that the odor of the new materials will dissipate in time, but the absence of odor is no indication that TCE concentrations are less than 6-8 ug/m³. It's not possible for me to rejoin my group on the 14th floor until adequate testing has been done and QA/QC'd lab results are available. We have nationally recognized experts in this field right here in our office- it's essential that we take advantage of their availability and let them review the air quality sampling plan to ensure that it meets EPA standards. This is necessary for confidence in the results. The criteria for the EPA's office indoor air quality should be at least as good as what we require at Superfund sites.

Please escalate this request for a proper, EPA-reviewed sampling plan to whomever is responsible for making this decision and putting the plan into action. Until then, I'll be working from swing-space or from home until I know it's safe to return to my office. I'd be happy to discuss this further with you (or anyone else) if you like, x (b) .

Thank you-

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 3:11 PM
To: Maxwell, Grady; R10-OEA Mail Group; Voytilla, Marykay
Subject: RE: Indoor Air Quality Test Results for the 14th floor

Oops, got distracted by someone and somehow pressed send. TCE is a common component of adhesives, and is frequently detected in indoor air in new construction because of its presence in those building materials. Given that we weren't supposed to have lead in drinking water in our LEED platinum building, yet did, it seems prudent to not assume the presence of chlorinated VOCs common in new building materials even though they shouldn't be there. The reporting limits for TCE are insufficient to comply with the recommendations OEA has made for action to be implemented at hazardous waste sites where TCE is detected. Specifically, in an occupational setting, short term exposures to concentrations greater than 6-8 ug/m³ pose an unacceptable potential for cardiac malformations in unborn children. The critical time period in gestation is prior to anyone

knowing they are pregnant. Thus, action to limit exposure should be taken where women of childbearing age are potentially exposed. We should extend the same level of concern and protection to EPA employees that we would the general public. This problem could have been solved here, and going forward by using EPA Method TO-15 to analyze the air samples, which should provide sufficient detection limits.

Thanks,

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 2:58 PM

To: Maxwell, Grady; R10-OEA Mail Group

Subject: RE: Indoor Air Quality Test Results for the 14th floor

Grady, thanks for forwarding this. However, I have a couple of questions. While I understand that this sampling may meet the “minimum” requirements for LEED sampling, it appears to be inadequate in terms of the reporting limits. It’s

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

1200 6th Ave

Seattle, WA 98109

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From: Maxwell, Grady

Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 2:33 PM

To: R10-OEA Mail Group

Subject: Indoor Air Quality Test Results for the 14th floor

Hello OEA,

The safety and health program has received the 14th floor indoor air-quality report and attached it for each of you to see prior to our move.

EHS International conducted indoor air quality testing of the following:

- Carbon Monoxide
- Formaldehyde
- 4-PCH
- Total Volatile Organic Compounds

The samples were sent to Galson Laboratories for analysis which resulted in a “PASS” status.

Please feel free to look through the report and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 3-0241.

Thanks,
Grady Maxwell, MPH
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U.S. EPA, Region 10
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